

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. for Approval : P-2023-3044459
of its Lead Service Line Replacement Program :

PREHEARING ORDER #5

On November 27, 2023, Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. (Aqua), through its counsel, Michael W. Hassell, Esquire, filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) a Petition for approval of a lead service line replacement program, pursuant to Section 1311(b) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code and Sections 65.51 *et seq.* of the Commission's regulations at Title 52 of the Pennsylvania Code. The Petition was docketed at P-2023-3044459.

On December 15, 2023, Steven C. Gray, Esquire filed a Notice of Appearance, Notice of Intervention and Public Statement on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA).

On December 18, 2023, John Sweet, Esquire filed a Petition to Intervene and Answer on behalf of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA).

On January 18, 2024, Harrison W. Breitman, Esquire filed a Notice of Intervention and Public Statement on behalf of the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA).

On January 22, 2024, the Commission served a notice establishing an initial telephonic prehearing conference for this matter for Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and assigning Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Charece Z. Collins as the Presiding Officer.

On January 23, 2024, the Presiding Officer served a prehearing conference order setting forth the rules and expectations for the conference.

The telephonic prehearing conference was held as scheduled on February 8, 2024. The participants were:

Aqua	Michael W. Hassell, Esq.; Megan E. Rulli, Esq.; and Alexander R. Stahl, Esq.
OCA	Harrison W. Breitman, Esq.
OSBA	Steven C. Gray, Esq.
CAUSE-PA	John Sweet, Esq.

At the conference, the Parties addressed preliminary procedural matters and requested 90 days to discuss settlement prior to proceeding with the formal litigation of this case. The Parties further indicated that they would send monthly status reports for the duration of the settlement period. The Presiding Officer granted the Parties' request.

On February 8, 2024, I issued Prehearing Order #1, which granted the parties until May 10, 2024 to discuss settlement, and required the Parties to submit monthly status reports on March 11, 2024, April 10, 2024, and May 10, 2024, respectively. Consistent with Prehearing Order #1, the Parties submitted timely status reports.

On May 10, 2024, the Parties advised that the Parties had discussed the potential settlement of this matter and believed that the matter can be resolved without the need for litigation. The Parties therefore requested that the settlement period be extended for an additional 30 days, until Monday, June 10, 2024, to allow time for the development of a term sheet. I granted the Parties' request via Order dated May 10, 2024.

On June 10, 2024, the Parties provided a fourth status report, advising that they were continuing to discuss the potential settlement of this matter and continued to believe that

the matter could be resolved without the need for litigation. The Parties requested to extend the settlement discussion period for an additional thirty days, until Wednesday, July 10, 2024, to allow the Parties additional time to develop a term sheet. I granted the Parties' request in an email dated June 13, 2024 and via Order dated July 1, 2024.

On July 10, 2024, the Parties provided a fifth status report, advising that they were continuing to discuss the potential settlement of this matter and continued to believe that the matter could be resolved without the need for litigation. The Parties requested to extend the settlement discussion period for an additional thirty days, until Monday, August 12, 2024, to allow the Parties additional time to develop a term sheet. I granted the Parties' request via Order dated July 11, 2024.

On August 12, 2024, the Parties provided a sixth status report, requesting to extend the settlement discussion period for an additional thirty days, until Wednesday, September 11, 2024, to allow the Parties additional time to develop a term sheet. This Order sets forth the updated deadline in this case.

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the active parties of record as of this date are Aqua, OCA, OSBA and CAUSE-PA.
2. That prior to formal litigation, the Parties have until **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**, to continue to discuss the potential settlement of this matter.

3. That the Parties shall e-mail an updated status report to the Presiding Officer no later than **September 11, 2024**.

4. That our e-mail distribution list is as follows. Any changes or corrections should be communicated to the undersigned, via e-mail, as soon as possible.

Party	Counsel	E-mail
Aqua	Michael W. Hassell, Esquire	mhassell@postschell.com
Aqua	Megan E. Rulli, Esquire	mrulli@postschell.com
Aqua	Devin T. Ryan, Esquire	dryan@postschell.com
Aqua	Garrett P. Lent, Esquire	glent@postschell.com
Aqua	Alexander R. Stahl, Esquire	astahl@aquaamerica.com
OCA	Harrison W. Breitman, Esquire	hbreitman@paoca.org
OCA	Melanie El Atieh, Esquire	melatieh@paoca.org
OSBA	Steven C. Gray, Esquire	sgray@pa.gov
CAUSE-PA	John Sweet, Esquire Ria Pereira, Esquire Elizabeth R. Marx,	PULP@pautilitylawproject.org

	Esquire Lauren Berman, Esquire	
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From Office of OALJ

Title	Name	E-mail
ALJ	Charece Z. Collins	charcollin@pa.gov

5. That, if the Parties deem a Protective Order to be necessary, Aqua will file a Petition for Protective Order with the Secretary’s Bureau (or the Parties may file a Joint Petition for Protective Order). If a Joint Petition is not filed, I will reach out to the parties regarding replies to the Petition filed by Aqua.

6. That, if the case does not resolve, a second prehearing conference may be scheduled, at which time a formal litigation schedule will be set and the remaining procedural matters for this case will be addressed, including, but not limited to, potential additional modifications to the discovery rules; service of documents; written testimony; and briefs.

In the event that the matter proceeds to litigation, the Commission’s regulations relating to discovery (found at 52 Pa. Code §5.321, et seq.), are currently modified as proposed by OCA and agreed upon by the Parties as follows:

- (1) Answers to written interrogatories will be served in-hand within ten (10) calendar days of service of the interrogatories.
- (2) Objections to interrogatories will be communicated orally within three (3) calendar days of service to the propounding party; unresolved objections shall be served on the parties in writing within five (5) calendar days of service of the interrogatories.
- (3) Any discovery or discovery-related pleadings such as objections, motions, or answers to motions served after noon (12:00 p.m.) on a Friday

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MICHAEL W HASSELL ESQUIRE
MEGAN E RULLI ESQUIRE
DEVIN T RYAN ESQUIRE
GARRETT P LENT ESQUIRE
POST & SCHELL PC
17 NORTH SECOND STREET
12TH FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101-1601
717.612.6029
717.612.6032
717.731.1970
mhassell@postschell.com
mrulli@postschell.com
dryan@postschell.com
glent@postschell.com
Accepts eService

STEVEN C GRAY ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
ADVOCATE
FORUM PLACE
555 WALNUT STREET 1ST FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.783.2525
717.783.2831
sgray@pa.gov
Served via email and first class mail

JOHN SWEET ESQUIRE
RIA PEREIRA ESQUIRE
ELIZABETH R MARX ESQUIRE
LAUREN BERMAN ESQUIRE
PA UTILITY LAW PROJECT
118 LOCUST STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.701.3837
717.710.3825
717.236.9486
jsweet@pautilitylawproject.org
rpereira@pautilitylawproject.org
emarx@pautilitylawproject.org
lberman@pautilitylawproject.org
Accepts eService

HARRISON W BREITMAN ESQUIRE
MELANIE EL ATIEH ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
555 WALNUT STREET 5TH FLOOR
FORUM PLACE
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.783.5048
hbreitman@paoca.org
melatieh@paoca.org
Accepts eService

ALEXANDER R STAHL ESQUIRE
AQUA PENNSYLVANIA INC
762 W LANCASTER AVE
BRYN MAWR PA 19010
610.645.1130
astahl@aquaamerica.com
Accepts eService